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A GREETING

I wish to send, through my friend Miss Seaton-Schmidt, greetings to all my friends in America, and to express my profound gratitude for their sympathetic appreciation of my art; it has been a great encouragement to me.

I sincerely admire your young country, which possesses a veritable thirst for the beautiful, and which will in time grasp and comprehend all that is greatest in art.

De grand coeur,

AUGUSTE RODIN.

TO THE VENUS DE MILO

BY AUGUSTE RODIN

Translated by Anna Seaton-Schmidt, and published herewith through the kind permission of M. Rodin and the editor of *L'Art et les Artistes*, in which this essay originally appeared.

MODELED by the sea, reservoir of all power, thou reignest over us by that perfect grace, that tranquillity which strength alone possesses. Thy noble serenity communicates itself to us, sinking into our hearts like the charm of some grave, quiet music. What triumphant proportions! What strong, vigorous shadows! From the confines of the earth men come to contemplate thee, oh venerated marble; and the faint light of day in the gallery wherein thou art seems to withdraw itself that thou alone may shine forth; while the silent hours pass, weighted down with admiration.

After having bestowed the gift of thy loveliness upon thy contemporaries, thou givest it now to us, to the universe! O Venus immortal, thou canst still hear and understand our praise! It seems as though the twenty-five centuries of thy life had but confirmed thy invincible youth.

Generation after generation, those waves of the ocean of life, irresistibly attracted, return again and again to worship thee, O conqueror of time!

In the midst of our tumultuous modern life thou canst still offer long moments of quiet contemplation to the poets,